



# **CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**

## **COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** October 27, 2009

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Environmental Services Division, Finance Department

**SUBJECT:** Amendment To Solid Waste Rates For The Business Sector

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Resolution No. 09-043, Establishing Certain City Fees, Including Water and Wastewater Rates, to Establish New Rates for the Collection of Recyclables, Greenwaste, Foodscrap and Trash for Businesses Within the City of Santa Barbara.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On October 13, 2009 City Council conducted a public hearing on the proposed new rates for trash, recycling, greenwaste and foodscrap collection services in the City's business sector pursuant to state law. There were no public comments during the hearing. In addition, the City received only one letter of protest.

The new rates are designed to: 1) increase financial incentives for businesses to recycle more and dispose of less, 2) create new rates for the Foodscrap Recovery and Composting program in the business sector, and 3) to enable business customers to better understand and self-audit the charges shown on their utility bills and discern the financial incentives that have been created to divert materials from landfill disposal. The new rates also correct several anomalies in the existing rate structure that can create disincentives for businesses to recycle more. This new proposed rate structure is for the business sector only.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the rate resolution to establish new rates for the collection of recyclables, greenwaste, foodscrap and trash in the business sector. The rates will become effective November 1, 2009.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The proposed new business rates have been designed to be revenue neutral and pose no material financial impacts to the City or the contracted haulers.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS:**

Recycling municipal solid waste and the City's related efforts to divert material from landfill disposal have considerable beneficial impacts to the environment. The proposed new business rates contain increased financial incentives for business customers to divert recyclable, compostable and/or reusable materials from the trash. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged and developed metrics that provide clear evidence of reduced greenhouse gas emissions through composting and recycling, which result in the creation of products using recycled feedstocks versus using virgin, natural resources. Establishing new rates for the business sector is a component of the Solid Waste Strategic Plan and contributes to the City's goal of becoming a more sustainable community.

**PREPARED BY:** Stephen MacIntosh, Environmental Services Supervisor

**SUBMITTED BY:** Robert Samario, Interim Finance Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office